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BEIJIN 39968 310928Z PAGE 01 ACTION EAP-01

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INFO AMCONSUL SHANGHAI

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E.O. 12356: N/A TAGS: PHUM. CH

SUBJECT: BEIJING 15 UPDATE-COURT DENIES VERDICTS

REF: BEIJING 39493

1. REFTEL REPORTED PRESS ACCOUNTS FROM AFP CLAIMING THREE OF THE "BEIJING 15" DEFENDANTS HAD BEEN CONVICTED AND SENTENCED FOR COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY CRIMES. 8/30 ARTICLE, AFP REVERSED ITSELF, QUOTING A BEIJING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEIJIN 39968 310928Z PAGE 02 INTERMEDIATE COURT SPOKESMAN DENYING THE AFP STORY AND STATING THAT THE CASE IS CONTINUING.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP, BUT IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO GET A STRAIGHT ANSWER. TO DATE LOCAL COURT OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO COMMENT TO US ON CASES, PENDING OR OTHERWISE. POLOFF ASKED AN OFFICIAL AT THE MFA DIVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABOUT THE CASE ON AUGUST 27, BUT THE OFFICIAL PROFESSED

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